



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION**

**Disabled American Veterans Day**

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Rhode Island have faithfully served our nation and active duty personnel continue to serve; and

**WHEREAS**, since its founding in 1920, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has been dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, fidelity to that mission has required DAV to respond creatively and flexibly to changing and sometimes unpredictable challenges faced by its constituency, and whether disabled veterans have needed a voice on Capitol Hill, a nationwide service program, a transportation network or unique rehabilitation opportunities, DAV has focused its attention and resources to meet those needs; and

**WHEREAS**, DAV is a nonpolitical organization, it has no political action committees (PACS) and endorses no political candidates; and

**WHEREAS**, DAV maintains a corps of approximately 270 National Service Officers (NSOs) in 72 offices across the United States and in Puerto Rico, and there is never any charge for the assistance these veterans' benefits experts provide to veterans and their families; and

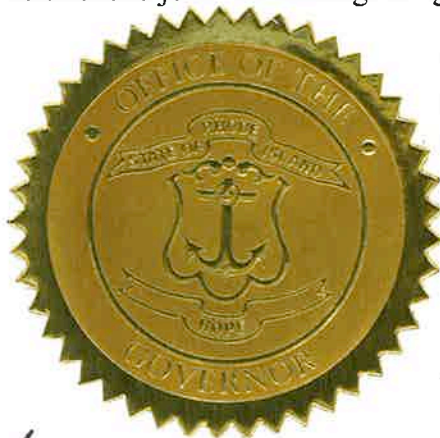
**WHEREAS**, DAV Service Officers are all service-connected disabled veterans themselves, and they are all accredited through the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, DAV Service Officers offer counseling on VA compensation, health care, pension, employment rights, education and assemble evidence to support benefit claims, building cases on their behalf and preparing claim forms and briefs; and

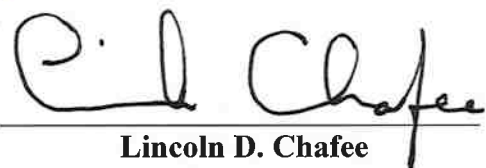
**WHEREAS**, DAV National Magazine and Rhode Island's DAV News, chapter meetings, and other functions keep members up-to-date on issues affecting their rights; and

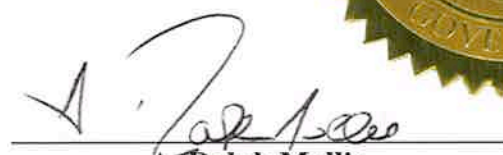
**WHEREAS**, the Department's Transportation Network transports sick and disabled veterans to VA medical facilities for treatment in Rhode Island and donate hours to veterans at all VA hospitals and many non-VA facilities throughout the state; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim July 31, 2012 as Disabled American Veterans Day and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012

  
**Lincoln D. Chafee**  
Governor

  
**A. Ralph Mollis**  
Secretary of State